

Dear Austin City Council:

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I have been a canvasser for the past three and a half years. I have knocked on roughly 80,000 doors, and talked to roughly 40,000 people. Through this action I have seen thousands of people participating in our democratic process easily and effectively. Our door-to-door strategy not only brings important issues to their attention **face-to-face**, but it gives them the ability to immediately act on their concerns. This action creates immediate and concrete improvements in peoples lives, and gives them a sense of their own power.

Just look at the victories the canvassing organizations here in Austin have accomplished! Texas Campaign for the Environment played a major role in pushing Dell Computers to start recycling computers responsibly and for free. Clean Water Action prevented a new policy that would allow sewer systems to discharge sewage that has only gone through one stage of treatment into water bodies used for drinking, fishing and swimming any time it rains. The Texas Public Interest Research Group helped pass legislation doubling the amount of clean, renewable energy produced in the state. When fully implemented, Texas will produce enough wind, solar and other clean energy to power 2.3 million homes.

It is essential that campaigns like ours be able to reach voting, tax paying adults. Oftentimes these adults arrive home from work between 5-7 pm. The 6:30-9:00 hours are a canvasser's most productive, as the people behind the door are the most responsive. If this ordinance is really designed to improve our quality of life here in Austin (as all Ordinances are designed), it would not restrict canvassing before 9pm.

"Canvassing is a method of communication essential to the preservation of our free society." Thurgood Marshall

Please Respond to my comments in writing.

Sincerely,

Laura Squire

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